**Time-bound trial**

760. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in The Pioneer, dated 24th September, 1997, under the caption "Time-bound trial is the need of the hour";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the faulty and tardy police investigations and to reduce burden on the judiciary which help the accused in tampering with the evidences and go scot free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes sir.

(b) and (c) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill 1994 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 9.5.1994, which contains a few provisions regarding speedy trial and disposal of cases. Further the Law Commission of India has undertaken a comprehensive review of the Criminal Procedure Code. The Law Commission in its 154th Report has made several recommendations with regard to speedy disposal of cases viz. separate and exclusive cadre for investigating agency, timely attendance of witnesses, protection and facilities to witnesses, setting up of a separate Directorate of Prosecution, addition of new sub-section 41A on custodial crimes, Protection of under trial prisoners, empowering all the criminal Courts to take bail, appointment of Special Magistrates under section 13 and 18 of the Criminal Procedure Code for disposal of petty cases, compensation to crime victims, summary trial procedure for recording evidence, etc. The Report has been circulated to all the State Government for eliciting their comments/ views.

**Ministerial Panel on Poll Reforms**

761. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a ministerial panel has been set-up on poll reforms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when this panel is supposed to submit its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) A Group of Ministers under the chairmenship of the Home Minister has been constituted to consider the proposals on electoral reforms, including proposals for amending section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and to make its recommendations. A meeting of the Group has already been held on 5.11.1997 and its recommendations are expected shortly.

**Strength of Judges for the Sikkim High Court**

762. SHRI MAHESWHAR SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of the Judges for the Sikkim High Court and how many Judges are there at present; and

(b) how many Judges have been appointed from outside the State and how many of them are from the initially appointed lot as per the policy of 1/3rd from the Home State as in all High Courts; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Against the sanctioned strength of 3 Judges, as on 1.11.1997, there was one Judge in position in the Sikkim High Court.

(b) As on 1.11.1997, 495 Judges/ Additional Judges were in position in various High Courts. Out of 495 Judges/ Additional Judges, 146 Permanent/ Additional Judges were from outside High Courts and 349 from the Home States. This is as per the Policy of having 1/3rd of Judges in each High Court from outside High Courts.

**SC/ST Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts in India**

763. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Supreme Court and High Court Judges in India;

(b) Number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Judges among them;

(c) what is the total number of Chief Justices of High Court and how many of them are scheduled castes and scheduled tribes with their names;

(d) what are the guidelines and details for the transfer of High Court Judges from one High Court to other High Court; and

(e) whether guidelines for transfer are being implemented if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) As on 1.11.1997, there were 22 Judges in Supreme Court of India, 15 Chief Justices of the High Courts and 480 Judges/Additional Judges in various High Courts of the Country.

There being no reservations in the matter of appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts on the basis of caste or class of persons, information is not maintained separately for caste or class etc.

(d) and (e) The Government had accepted as a policy the recommendations of the Law Commission in its 80th Report that there should be a convention according to which 1/3rd of Judges in each High Court should be from any other State. The Government had decided that this may be implemented either by making initial appointments from outside or by effecting transfers. Pursuant to this policy, transfer/ appointment of Judges and Chief Justices of the High Courts are being made on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of India.

**झारखण्ड में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा दिया जाना**

764. **श्री ज्ञान रंजन:** क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) केन्द्रीय सरकार ने किन-किन राज्यों में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कदम उठाए हैं;

(ख) क्या देश में, विशेषकर बिहार के झारखण्ड क्षेत्र में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कोई प्रस्ताव किया गया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो किन-किन पर्यटन स्थलों के लिए धनराशि प्रदान की गई है?

**संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री श्री कान्त जेना):** (क) भारत सरकार का पर्यटन विभाग सभी राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र सरकारों को, उनसे प्राप्त विशिष्ट प्रस्तावों और प्रत्येक मामले के गुण-दोषों के आधार पर, पर्यटन के विकास के लिए सहायता प्रदान करता है।

(ख) और (ग) पर्यटन विभाग प्रत्येक वर्ष राज्य सरकारों के परामर्श से, पर्यटन के विकास हेतु वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए परियोजनाओं को प्राथमिकता देता है, पर्यटन विभाग ने झारखण्ड क्षेत्र में धनबाद और उरवी में पर्यटक परियोजनाओं हेतु केन्द्रीय वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान की है।

**Meeting of Tourism Board**

765. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that belatedly constituted Tourism Board has not yet met even once;

(b) reasons for delayed constitution of the Board and calling its meeting;